

# ENDANGERED SPECIES MITIGATION FUND

Protecting Utah's Sensitive Species, One Project at a Time



The Endangered Species Mitigation Fund (ESMF) was established by the Utah Legislature in 1998 to fund projects that protect sensitive species in Utah. Specifically, the fund provides financial support for projects that help recover endangered or threatened species or prevent sensitive species from becoming federally listed.

This brochure will help you better understand the ESMF and evaluate if it's a program that could help you. If you'd like more information, or if you're interested in applying, use the contact information listed on the back of this brochure.

**Above:** ESMF has supported gila monster conservation efforts in Southwestern Utah. **Right:** ESMF funds have been used to purchase habitat for prairie dogs in Utah.





# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE E



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

## What kinds of projects are eligible for ESMF funds?

Any project that helps recover endangered or sensitive species is eligible. Projects could include research to clarify the status, range or distribution of a species (such as the Boreal Toad Conservation and Monitoring Plan); a conservation action that will improve habitat for a species (such as sage-grouse habitat improvement); or a cooperative effort that provides landowners with incentives to manage or protect habitats that benefit sensitive species (such as the Utah Prairie Dog Management and Recovery Program). Priority is given to on-the-ground actions instead of research, planning or monitoring efforts. Any species on Utah's Sensitive Species List (2005) is eligible for funding. This list can be viewed at [www.wildlife.utah.gov](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov).

**Above:** Carefully designed habitat improvement projects, such as chaining on private land, help improve habitat for a variety of species, including sage-grouse.

**Right:** ESMF funds contribute to research designed to reduce the impacts of non-native species such as common carp in Utah Lake.

## Who can apply?

ESMF funding is open to anyone with a viable project. Past recipients of ESMF awards include state agencies, counties, cities, universities and private individuals or groups. Be aware, however, that any projects funded by the ESMF must have the support of the communities in which they take place, so it's important to develop a partnership with the local community before submitting your proposal.

## What does the application entail?

The application format includes a written description of your project, other project sponsors, a schedule of deliverables and an annual budget. An electronic copy of the application can be found on the Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Web site at [www.nr.utah.gov/esmf](http://www.nr.utah.gov/esmf) or call the Recovery Programs Office at (801) 538-5273.



SWCA Environmental Consultants, Inc.

# ENDANGERED SPECIES MITIGATION FUND

## How are projects selected?

ESMF awards are made to projects that will help conserve and protect sensitive species while allowing continued economic development and growth. Successful applicants should be able to demonstrate that their project aligns with the DNR mission; benefits sensitive species; is both scientifically and fiscally sound; is funded from multiple sources; is built on sound partnerships, especially with the local community; and is consistent with state and federal laws. A selection committee of natural resource managers, resource industry representatives, local government and water users will review all proposals and forward their recommendations to the DNR executive director for final selection.

## What are the requirements for projects that are funded?

Following each award, the DNR will prepare a contract outlining the schedule for deliverables, billing requirements and the need for a short annual summary report of project accomplishments. The annual summary report deadline will be September 1, two months after the closing of the state's fiscal year.

**Above Right:** The spotted frog is a conservation species that has benefitted from ESMF projects.

**Below:** ESMF funds contributed to this diversion fish screen on the Virgin River.



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

## What are the key dates?

The deadline for submission of an ESMF proposal is **March 1** of each year. The Recovery Programs Office compiles the list of projects for ranking by a selection committee by **mid-March**. In **April** the selection committee members review the applications, balance high-priority work items, rank new proposals and match the funding available for the coming fiscal year.

Once their review and ranking is complete, the selection committee makes a recommendation to the department's executive director. The work plan is reviewed by the DNR Leadership Team and then is formally adopted by the DNR. Formal notification of applicants and award of funding should be completed by **May 1**.

## How do I apply?

For more information or application materials, please use the contact information listed on the back of this brochure.



Steve Meisner





Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### **Recovery Programs Office**

Utah Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 145610  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5610  
Fax: (801) 538-5544  
[www.nr.utah.gov/esmf](http://www.nr.utah.gov/esmf)

### **Reed Harris**

(801) 538-7420  
[reedharris@utah.gov](mailto:reedharris@utah.gov)

### **Christopher Keleher**

(801) 538-5216  
[christopherkeleher@utah.gov](mailto:christopherkeleher@utah.gov)

**Above:** Sage-grouse



STATE OF UTAH  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES